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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 44 Berkeley, California November, 1962 Number 11

RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Redwood Canyon Walk, October 9—Bird "finds" were a Rough-legged Hawk and a mating performance by Anna's Hummingbirds three months earlier than indicated by Hoffmann. A rare flower noted was Gutierrezia californica. Total species seen were 23 of birds and 40 of flowers, more than half of the latter being composites. Ten flowers only were found along the roads above and below Crestmont. Of the twelve persons participating, two came from San Mateo by bus.—*Marshall Jencks, Leader.*

Bay Farm Island & Alameda—About thirty members and guests met in Lincoln Park in Alameda, on Saturday, September 22. Overcast skies soon gave way to warm sunshine, and absence of wind made the day ideal. Since the tide was high, the group went first to Frontage Road in Oakland to see what might still be on the old loafing grounds. Port of Oakland industrial park developments have driven out most of the birds, but Curlews (chiefly Long-billed) and Black-bellied Plovers seem not to mind dry feet and still loaf there. Both species were seen to good advantage. Among the Plovers both Black and Ruddy Turnstones were observed. Horned Larks and Killdeer seemed especially numerous.

Proceeding around San Leandro Bay to Doolittle Drive, the party stopped for a close view of Willets, Marbled Godwits, Dowitchers, and Western and Least Sandpipers. While the leader was pointing out where a Clapper Rail had been seen, the rail flew over the heads of the Audubоners and disappeared in the Salicornia.

Off McCartney Road, where filling in of marsh land has begun, the most numerous concentrations of birds were seen. Since the tide had not been very high, hundreds of Avocets had been able to remain near shore. When the tide is too high, these birds loaf in pools near the new Oakland Airport. Willets stay offshore in the grass, and they were seen to good advantage near McCartney Road. A single Northern Phalarope seemed out of place.

The tide had begun to recede when the group reached the west end of Bay Farm Island. A second Clapper Rail appeared briefly. Near the inlet huddled Sandpipers looked like bark on a tree. Turnstones, Sanderlings, and a few Snowy Plovers were among them. As the tide went out, waves of small birds spread over the flats and spits of land, and flocks of the larger birds moved in, giving a good view of the relation between bird movement and tide conditions.

Members of the group who stayed into the afternoon went to the west end of Alameda, where they saw Forster's and Common Terns, but not the Elegant Tern they were looking for. A total of 45 species was seen during the day.—*Elsie Roemer, Leader & Historian.*

YEAR'S-END CONSERVATION FRONT OUTLOOK

These lines are dedicated to the memory of Harold French, pioneer Oakland conservationist and co-founder of our East Bay Regional Parks, who passed away in October. His works have inspired many others.

We wish that we could view 1962 as a great year in Conservation for America, but we cannot honestly do that. Defeat of the State Park Bonds marked a serious set-back for all who love California's outdoors and it behooves us all to work harder toward park and beach acquisition on all fronts, and to make an all-out push for such bonds

in the near future. The State of New York, our elosest population and economic "rival", is voting on new bonds to extend the "$75,000,000 park bonds passed in 1960!

The 87th Congress finally voted a *Point Reyes National Seashore*, but this exists in name only as they adjourned without appropriating a dollar toward land acquisition! Meanwhile we see a disgusting defiance of the public welfare as real estate promoters continue efforts to carve up and sell choice spots on the Point Reyes Peninsula. We must make sure this situation is resolved right after Congress reconvenes.

Congress also dragged its feet on the Wilderness Bill and on measures to give the Golden Eagle federal protection, on pesticides research appropriations, and on wetlands acquisition — even on permanent proteetion of such vital areas as the Tule Lake Waterfowl Refuge in northeastern California. Yet we have witnessed brave efforts of conservation-minded senators and congressmen, including several from California and the Bay Region.

Meanwhile, let us keep working on other local and state goals, such as: more seenic easements and agricultural zoning to save our scenery and our food supply, thwarting a proposed freeway through Fremont's park-sanctuary area, a master plan to *save the Bay* from uncontrolled fills and drainages; and, of course, development of that refuge on Bolinas Bay—Canyon Ranch! We like the '63 Asilomar Convention theme: *Our Living Heritage—Going Where?* PAUL F. COVEL, Conservation Chairman

OPPOSE FLOODING OF NESTING AREA—The Rampart Dam, whieh is to be built by U. S. Army Engineers on the Yukon River in Alaska, will unfortunately flood one of the few remaining waterfowl nesting areas in North America. It will adversely affeet the hunting, trapping and salmon fishing neeessary for the subsistence of the residents. It will produce approximately 4,770,000 kilowatts of electrie power even though eurrent consumption of the entire state in under 150,000 kilowatts. Many other dam sites would be more economical and less destructive. Please write to your congressman and ask him to vote AGAINST the Rampart Dam project.

IN MEMORIAM

Gifts of Remembrance to the Sanctuary & memorial Fund

In memory of	*Gift of*
Miss Annanda Van Orden	Miss Edith Van Orden
Mr. Harold French	Mr. Paul F. Covel
Jane Newman	Miss Aileen Pierson
Roscanne Larkin	Miss Aileen Pierson
Mrs. Bessie Kibbe	Mr. & Mrs. Louis A. Elmore
Mr. Albert F. Tiggard	Board of Governors, Golden Gate Audubon Society

Gifts of Remembrance to the Canyon Ranch Fund

In memory of	*Gift of*
Thomas M. Price	Joseph Freitas Patricia Sullivan
Mrs. Carolyn Janaher	Greta & Susan Spitz Miss Blanche Vranna
Dr. Donald R. Pratt	Dr. Samuel Susselman Cora Susselman
Mr. Harold Freneh	Paul F. Covel

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

CANYON RANCH - A LIVING MEMORIAL

Thanks are due Blanche Vranna for suggesting, after a serious aceident in which her companion, Carolyn Janaher, was killed and she badly hurt, that friends contribute to Canyon Raneh Fund instead of sending flowers. As a result, over $75.00 was contributed to Canyon Ranch Fund in memory of Mrs. Janaher and in honor of Blanche Vranna by Miss Aileen E. Bonestell, Miss Grace Dinsdale, Miss Marion Dingley, Clyde Core, Lou Yetter, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Gowan, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Halamka, Miss Erline Hevel, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Houston, Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Loder, Miss Aliee M. Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. James Riley, and Mr. Adolph Zompach.

We are most happy to report that Miss Vranna, who has been hospitalized since the time of the accident, on July 29, is doing very well. She expects to be home sometime in November.

ANNOUNCEMENT—AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST FOR 1963

The new camp site for *Audubon Camp of the West* is located in the Wind River Range of western Wyoming, at Trail Lake Ranch, Dubois, Wyoming, just 75 miles from Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. There will be *three* two week sessions from June 23 through August 2, 1963. For full details write: AUDUBON CAMP, P. O. Box 3666, El Monte, California.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mrs. D. H. McLaughlin, Miss Janet Strothman; from Dallas, Texas, Mr. J. J. Rothermal; from Oakland, Miss Anne Brewer, Miss Velma P. Kennedy, Mrs. Louise Weber; from San Francisco, Miss Margaret C. Guisti, Mr. Francis J. Walcott; from Santa Rosa, Mr. Eric Spalding; from Vallejo, Mr. Michael Wanger.

—VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Membership Chairman*

NOVEMBER MEETING

The 533rd meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, November 8th, at 7:30 P.M., in the First Unitarian Church at Geary and Franklin Streets, in San Francisco.

Mr. Paul Covel, Park Naturalist for the City of Oakland, will be the speaker. He is a past president of our society and at present our Conservation Chairman. The title of his lecture is *Visiting Water Fowl Refuges.* It will be illustrated by a film made on his many trips to bird sanctuaries. Come and bring your friends for an interesting and instructive evening.

NOTE: Following Mr. Covel's program, the group will have its first opportunity to see the film, *Audubon Canyon Ranch,* a beautiful picture photographed by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Willis. Don't miss it! This is the story of our project.

—MYRA BROWNE, *Program Chairman*

LEADER EDUCATION—Are you interested in training young people in natural science? If you are, save Friday evening, November 30, for a talk by Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg, at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park, Oakland, at 7:30 P. M. Mrs. Nickelsburg will present new material recently received from the National Office of the Audubon Society. She has also planned for three later meetings to include a lecture, a field walk, and a follow-up meeting to evaluate the field trip. Groups will be limited to 8 to 10 persons.

If you have friends who are teachers or youth group leaders, please, invite them to share in this activity of the Education Committee of Golden Gate Audubon Society.

AUDUBON CONSERVATION CENTER in Berkeley, 2426 Bancroft Way, announces Saturday hours from now until Christmas. Open from 11:00 to 4:00, the center invites you to explore the treasures of the library and to discover the many educational and inspirational materials available for young and old naturalists. Good place for Christmas shopping, too.

FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

On Saturday and Sunday, November 3-4, to Gridley and Willows Refuges. (Details in October Gull).

On Sunday, November 11, to Orinda and San Pablo Reservoirs. Large numbers of ducks, geese, and shorebirds winter here. The oak and shrub covered slopes are good habitat for many land birds. No trespassing signs keep this area in a wild state. Upper Bear Creek and Brionnes Valley may be visited for warblers. This is one chance to see Hooded Merganser at Cascade Lake and Wood Duck on San Pablo Dam Reservoir. Meet at 9 a. m. in front of Orinda Theatre near Orinda Crossroads. Leader, Lee Stallcup, LOckhaven 9-3185.

On Tuesday, November 13, to Lake Merritt. This lake is a good place to observe many species of water birds at close range. Some unusual birds may also be seen in the pens and on display in the dome. A visit to the Rotary Natural Science Center is interesting and educational. This is a nationally known wildlife center. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park near the feeding area at 9:30 a. m. Leader, Paul Covel, KEllog 6-4120.

On Saturday, December 1, to Conn Lake in Napa County. Since 1951 this area has been on our list of winter trips. This lake is a favorite wintering spot for Wood Ducks. A good number of them can usually be seen. In 1957 about 400 were counted. Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Gadwall, Redhead and Ring-necked Ducks are often spotted. Red-shouldered Hawk is present this time of the year. Meet at the stone bridge about one mile northeast of Napa, at 9 a. m. Bring binoculars, telescope, a lunch and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LOckhaven 8-7534.

On Sunday, December 2, the Conn Lake trip will be repeated. This is being done to split the group for better birding. Leader, John Ralph LAndscape 5-0373.

—HAROLD PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Assistant Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $1.50 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California TH 8-4042

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